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Implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

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Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In its decision 5/2, the United Nations Forum on Forests decided to complete the consideration of its review process at its sixth session based on the Chairman's draft text contained in an annex to the decision. The present note is prepared to facilitate the deliberations of the Member States. The annex contains the Chairman's draft text.

* E/CN.18/2006/1.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests, at its fifth session, in its decision 5/2, entitled "Review process of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests", decided to complete the consideration of the review process based on the bracketed draft text developed in informal consultations during its fifth session. The bracketed text, labelled "Chairman's draft text", was contained in the annex to decision 5/2.

2. Taking note of the report of the Forum on its fifth session, the Economic and Social Council (see Council resolution 2005/29) noted that the Forum will continue examination of its method of work, as per General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, through the implementation of decision 5/2 of the fifth session of the Forum.

3. The present note by the Secretariat has been prepared to transmit the bracketed text, provide background context and inform Member States of new developments that have occurred since the fifth session of the Forum.

II. Background

A. Agenda

4. The focus of the deliberations at the fifth session of the Forum was on the following three main items of the agenda:

(a) Review of progress and consideration of future actions;

(b) Review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, as referred to in paragraph 17 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35;

(c) On the basis of the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, consideration of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, with a view to recommending them to the Council and, through it, to the General Assembly.

5. Three separate official pre-session documents were prepared to facilitate the discussions of the above three items. In addition, a report of the ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, with a view to recommending them to the Council and, through it, to the General Assembly, issued in September 2004, was also considered by the session. A report of the country-led initiative in support of the Forum, held in January 2005 in Guadalajara, Mexico, on the same theme, was also presented to the Forum.

6. At the fifth session, the Forum also convened the second high-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations. The Forum considered the common items "Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination" and "Multi-stakeholder dialogue" in conjunction with the high-level ministerial segment. The official documents addressing enhanced cooperation, the high-level ministerial segment and the linkages between forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United

Nations Millennium Declaration, and discussion papers from the major groups were separately provided for the discussion and negotiations.

7. The sixth session of the Forum, therefore, is expected to complete the ongoing review process and recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a draft resolution on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including consideration of the future actions and the position of the Forum within the United Nations system.[1]

B. Brief account of negotiations and resulting Chairman's draft text

8. The initial deliberations on specific agenda items at the fifth session focused, inter alia, on:

(a) The reaffirmation of the objective, purpose and functions of the international arrangement on forests as set out in Council resolution 2000/35, but a desire for improvement in the effectiveness of the arrangement;

(b) The desire for a dynamic process of addressing emerging policy issues and setting strategic objectives to support implementation of the international arrangement on forests;

(c) Different models of voluntary instruments, including a voluntary code on forests, technical guidelines, an international understanding on sustainable forest management and peer review;

(d) The issue of setting global goals and/or associated national targets;

(e) The issue of finance and other means of implementation;

(f) Working modalities, including issues of regional dimension and a multi-year programme of work for the Forum;

(g) The issue of how and when to address a possible legal framework for all types of forests;

(h) Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral coordination, including the role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(i) The role of forests in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(j) The ministerial message to the 2005 World Summit.

9. Eventually, the Forum advanced its negotiations through a draft resolution. Negotiations on many of the above issues took place in working groups and informal contact groups. Due to a lack of time, the draft resolution to be considered by the Economic and Social Council could not be agreed upon. The Chairman's draft text represents the state of negotiations when the session came to an end. The

[1] See Council resolution 2000/35 and the Forum's multi-year programme of work adopted in its resolution 1/1, in particular section A, subparagraphs 4 (d) (i), (ii) and (iii).

text contains a preamble section comprising 10 paragraphs, an operative section comprising 25 paragraphs under seven subheadings[2] and an annex.

III. Recent developments

10. The 2005 World Summit, in its review of progress made on the global agenda for development, including goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, adopted a specific statement regarding forests and the Forum in its Outcome document. In pursuance of the commitment to achieve sustainable development, the heads of State and Government resolved:

> "To strengthen the conservation, sustainable management and development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations, including through enhanced international cooperation, so that trees and forests may contribute fully to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors. We look forward to the discussions at the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests" (see resolution 60/1, para. 56 (j)).

11. An international meeting of experts on the theme "Scoping for a future agreement on forests", a country-led initiative in support of the Forum, held in Berlin from 16 to 18 November 2005, explored some of the key issues and concepts presented and discussed at the fifth session of the Forum and reflected in the Chairman's draft text. The meeting was attended by 152 experts from 87 countries and dealt with three of the critical issues discussed at the fifth session of the Forum and accordingly contained in the Chairman's draft text: voluntary code/voluntary instrument; implementation/means of implementation; and the regional dimension. The meeting brought much clarity to the concepts and their implications on the development of the international arrangement on forests. The report of the country-led initiative has been submitted to the sixth session for consideration.

12. The Bureau of the sixth session of the Forum held a series of briefings with Member States in late November and early December 2005 in New York. The briefings and subsequent exchange of views focused on the critical need to reach a consensus on the development of the international arrangement on forests and on how to better organize the work of the sixth session to effectively conclude the pending work.

13. The seventh conference of parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was held from 17 to 28 October 2005 in Nairobi. The meeting sent a clear signal that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of rural poverty. In its final decision (ICCD/COP (7)/L.18/Rev.1), the conference committed to promote synergy between the Rio conventions and called for enhanced cooperation. It particularly suggested a synergistic approach to encouraging sustainable forest management.

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[2] The seven subheadings are: (i) Global goals/strategic objectives, (ii) Means of implementation, (iii) Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral, policy and programme coordination, (iv) Working modalities, (v) Legal framework, (vi) Voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding and (vii) Declaration and message.

14. During the thirty-ninth session of the International Tropical Timber Council, held from 7 to 12 November 2005, the Council approved a programme to support the Forum and its secretariat and to cooperate with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in various joint programmes in its newly approved biennial programme of work for 2006-2007.

15. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its eleventh session, held from 28 November to 2 December 2005, discussed the need to take note of the outcomes of the sixth session of the Forum in relation to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on forest biological diversity. The Body also encouraged more collaboration and coordination with the Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on streamlining reporting requirements and initiatives on forest law enforcement and governance issues. The report of the Body will be presented to the eighth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2006.

16. The eleventh Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and first Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held jointly from 28 November to 9 December 2005, addressed the outstanding operational details of the Kyoto Protocol, including procedures relating to compliance and guidelines for "flexible mechanisms", including the Clean Development Mechanism, and future commitments for the period after the end of the Protocol's first commitment period in 2012.

17. The Ministerial Conference on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, in which the Governments of European and North Asian countries and other countries and the European Commission participated, was held from 21 to 25 November 2005 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. The Conference, which was attended by ministers and other senior officials from 43 countries, adopted the St. Petersburg Declaration for coordinated actions and collaboration in effectively enforcing forest law and governance activities in the region.

IV. Points for consideration

18. As stipulated in its decision 5/2, the Forum would base its deliberations on the Chairman's draft text from the fifth session. The Forum may wish to take into account recent developments, including those mentioned above, during its overall deliberations at the sixth session. In this regard, the Forum may also wish to consider making an appropriate reference to paragraph 56 (j) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, rather than maintaining paragraphs 24 and 25 (under the heading "Declaration and message") in the Chairman's draft text, considering the fact that the 2005 World Summit, to which it was directed, has already taken place. The Forum may also wish to further deliberate on the issue of global goals in the context of paragraph 56 (j) of the World Summit Outcome.

19. The Forum may wish to validate the objectives, purpose and functions of the international arrangement on forests and the institutional status of the Forum as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council with universal membership, as set out in Council resolution 2000/35 and in the light of the outcomes and implications of the major summits and conferences.

20. In the Chairman's draft text, paragraph 2 identified two additional tasks for the international arrangement on forests, namely, (a) enhancing the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; and (b) maintaining global forest resources and forest quality for the long-term economic, social and environmental well-being of all, in particular those that depend directly on forests, including local and indigenous communities. However, it is not clear whether these two tasks should be termed objectives or functions of the international arrangement on forests in addition to what resolution 2000/35 stipulated. The Forum may wish to consider this issue in its deliberation.

21. While further deliberating on possible instruments, the Forum may wish to take into consideration the need for the articulation of international forest-related commitments in a voluntary instrument by developing a code on forests, international guidelines or an international understanding on sustainable forest management by conducting peer reviews.

22. The Forum may also wish to consider how to enhance the contribution of forests through sustainable forest management to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, for the long-term economic, social and environmental well-being of all, in particular those that depend directly on forests, including local and indigenous communities.

23. The Forum may wish to consider the method of work and a multi-year programme of work for the coming years that would envision and realign the Forum's work and direction for future actions. In this regard, the Forum may wish also to consider maintaining flexibility to address new and emerging issues and strengthening the linkages between forest policy development and dialogue at the global, regional, national and local levels by holding and encouraging regional and global thematic meetings on major forest-related issues.

24. The Forum may also wish to consider the creation of an enabling environment and development of financial mechanisms for the implementation of forest policies in the promotion of sustainable forest management and for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

25. The Forum may wish to recognize the continued need for enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination with relevant instruments, intergovernmental organizations and processes, both within and outside the United Nations system, as well as the role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major stakeholder groups in promoting sustainable forest management worldwide.

Annex

Chairman's draft text*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling and reaffirming its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Reaffirming its commitment to all the principles of the Rio Declaration, including those relating to the sovereign right of countries to use their own resources according to their policies on environment and development and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries; the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests and chapter 11 of Agenda 21 agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; relevant multilateral environmental agreements; the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action; the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus,

Recognizing that forests are important to the social and economic well-being of present and future generations, as well as to the environment,

Expressing concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation and the resulting adverse impact on the economy, the livelihoods of at least a billion people and the environment, and about the need for more effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels to address these critical challenges,

Recognizing the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries,

Emphasizing its concern about the need for adequate financing, capacity-building, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and good governance at all levels for effective implementation of sustainable forest management, in particular concerning the least developed countries and countries emerging from conflict,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the international arrangement on forests to assure effective implementation of internationally agreed actions on sustainable forest management at all levels,

Re-emphasizing the importance of the United Nations Forum on Forests as the high-level intergovernmental body on forests within the United Nations, the continued supporting role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the need for the Forum to provide the Partnership with clear guidance,

Recognizing the need to strengthen the regional approach to establish linkages between the global high-level policy forum and implementation at the regional, subregional and national levels,

* As presented on Thursday, 26 May 2005, at 8 p.m.

1. *Decides* to strengthen the international arrangement on forests, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions, by the following;

2. *Agrees* that in addition to the main objective and the principal functions set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the international arrangement on forests should:

(a) Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(b) Maintain global forest resources and forest quality for the long-term economic, social and environmental well-being of all, and in particular those that depend directly on forests, including local and indigenous communities;

*[Global Goals]/**[Global] Strategic Objectives***

3. **[With a view to the achievement of [the overall Millennium Development Goals,]/[internationally agreed development goals, including those included in the Millennium Declaration]]** [*Also agrees* **[that all possible efforts should be made] [[no later than 2020]/[by 2015]]** to **achieve [no later than 2020]/[by 2015]** the following shared **global** goals on forests/**[.] [Demonstrable progress for the achievement of these goals should be made by 2015.]/[no later than 2020]/[by 2015] [upon]/[on] [which] [and make] demonstrable progress [to that end] [should be made]** by **[2011]/[**2015**]]**:

Goal 1

[Agreed-ad ref] Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

Goal 2

[Agreed-ad ref] Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits and the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

Goal 3

[Agreed-ad ref] Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and the area of sustainably managed forests and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

Goal 4

[Agreed-ad ref] Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

4. [Agreed-ad ref] *Further agrees* that countries, taking into account national sovereignty, practices and conditions, should make all efforts to contribute

to the above global goals through the development or indication of voluntary national measures, policies, actions or specific goals;

4bis. [Agreed-ad ref] *Encourages* countries, on a voluntary basis, to submit periodically national reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests, beginning in 2007, on progress in their efforts made to contribute to the global goals in the present resolution, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management;

Means of implementation

5. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to secure high-level political commitment and support to improve the means of implementation, especially in relation to finance, capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies (in particular to support developing countries), in order to achieve sustainable forest management, taking into account economic, social and environmental priorities and specificities at the country, subregional and regional levels, by:

(a) Reversing the decline in global official development assistance for forest-related activities and calling for the fulfilment of commitments to official development assistance;

(b) Urging donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to achieve the objectives of the international arrangement on forests;

(c) Mobilizing and providing significant new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management to and in developing countries;

(d) Making sustainable forest management a higher priority, inter alia, through integrating the National Forest Programme or other national forest strategies into national planning strategies, including poverty reduction strategies where they exist;

(e) Supporting partnerships to mobilize financial resources for sustainable forest management;

(f) Fostering access where appropriate by households and communities to forest resources and markets;

(g) Creating a global forest fund through new and additional financial resources on a voluntary basis;

or

(g) alt Creating a global forest fund as part of the Forum Trust Fund;

or

(g) alt2 Inviting the governing body of the National Forest Programme Facility hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to establish a fund to support national actions to implement sustainable forest management;

(g) alt2 bis Also inviting the governing body of the Programme of Forests hosted by the World Bank to establish a fund to facilitate collaborative work among members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests at global and regional levels;

(g) alt2 ter Urging countries to contribute to the National Forest Programme facility and the Programme of Forests for these specific purposes as mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;

(h) Inviting the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its twenty-fifth session to consider the establishment of a new operational programme on forests with sufficient additional funds to be allocated by the current replenishment negotiations without prejudice to other operational programmes;

or

(h) alt Inviting the Council of the Global Environment Facility to explore ways to give greater consideration to sustainable forest management within the relevant operational programmes of the Global Environment Facility, including by utilizing the full range of forest-related international organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Tropical Timber Organization, as implementing and executing agencies, where appropriate;

(i) Inviting the international and regional financial and development institutions to channel additional resources to developing countries to finance sustainable forest management;

(j) Promoting international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation;

(k) Creating an effective enabling environment for private sector investment for sustainable forest management;

(l) Creating an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and forest users in sustainable forest management;

(m) Further developing at the national, regional, interregional and international level innovative financial mechanisms for generating revenue;

(n) Supporting the diversification of sources of income of people living in and around forest areas;

6. *Urges* countries to make concerted efforts to secure high-level political commitment and support to improve the means of implementation, especially in relation to finance, capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, considering a holistic approach to local and traditional technologies, in order to achieve sustainable forest management, by:

(a) Providing greater support to scientific and technological innovations for sustainable forest management, including those relating to the improvement in sustainable forest management by local communities;

(b) Enhancing the capacity of countries to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed sources;

(c) Integrating national forest programmes into national strategies for sustainable development, national action plans under multilateral environmental agreements and, where appropriate, into poverty reduction strategies;

(d) Promoting international cooperation (including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation);

(e) Promoting a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries to better address the problems of forest degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;

(f) Making effective use of existing resources, including promotion of synergistic effects through mobilization and coordination of bilateral, multilateral and unilateral resources;

(g) Establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes with all major groups to pursue sustainable forest management objectives as well as to enhance the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(h) Promoting the active participation of indigenous peoples, women and other forest-dependent groups in the development and implementation of policies and programmes that affect them;

(i) Promoting the effective protection and use of traditional knowledge and best practices in sustainable forest management;

(j) Promoting improved forest practices through strengthening sustainable forest management standards;

(k) Enforcing forest legislation and promoting law enforcement and governance;

Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral, policy and programme coordination

7. *Decides* to:

(a) Facilitate improved implementation through clustering and simplifying the language of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action as well as by promoting greater understanding of the intent of these proposals by countries and all stakeholders;

(b) Promote research and development of forests by means of a network of established institutes of excellence in all regions of the world, especially in developing countries;

(c) Establish a clearing house mechanism to facilitate a better exchange of experiences and good practices and to facilitate the access by developing countries to better technology for sustainable forest management and an increase of in situ added value for forest products;

(d) Enhance United Nations system-wide coordination and promote the forest agenda of the United Nations in an integrated and coordinated manner, setting it within the overall United Nations agenda;

8. *Invites* the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes and United Nations bodies to improve collaboration through the international arrangement on forests as the key intergovernmental mechanism to

facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels;

Working modalities

9. *Decides* that [the Forum], [as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council], shall operate on the basis of a multi-year programme of work **to be adopted at its first meeting at the global level in 2007** [to be established during the first session] [**in the context of the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management and international cooperation and trade, ... global goals ...**], with two-year cycles for the period 200[6]**8**-[2015], with the Forum meeting [annually/every two years **at the global level**];

10. *Agrees* that the Forum shall hold regional sessions every alternate year to **address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work, including through** assessing implementation and progress at the [[global/] regional level] and providing guidance for further action;

11. *Decides* that these sessions shall be organized in cooperation with the **United Nations regional commissions as well as** existing regional processes, **including those within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and others** [such as the United Nations regional economic and social commissions and the regional forestry commissions, of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations] to ensure complementarity and [non-] **avoid** duplication **and that the outcomes of the regional sessions be reported to the global meetings of the Forum and, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council**;

11alt. ***Requests*** **the Forum, with the support of the five United Nations regional economic and social commissions, [to host]/[organize] within the policy framework and overall coordination of the Forum, in consultation with the Forum secretariat, regional meetings of the Forum every two years, and invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through its regional forestry commissions and relevant regional and subregional organizations and processes to actively participate in, support and, where feasible, co-host these meetings, which should:**

(a) Address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work, in particular through the exchange of information and experiences;

(b) Report to meetings of the Forum at the global level and to the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate;

(c) Be open to members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups;

(d) Involve other relevant subregional, regional and international organizations and processes;

(e) Be supported by the Forum secretariat;

(f) Be financed through the United Nations regular budget by the reallocation of funds saved by reducing the frequency and duration of global meetings of the Forum;

(g) Be complimentary to and avoid duplication of existing processes;

(these regional meetings should take advantage of existing regional meetings and processes to avoid duplication and fragmentation);

11bis. *Decides* that until the regional sessions are designed and fully established, the Forum will continue meeting annually from 2006-2008 and that at its 2008 session, it will decide whether to adopt the two-year cycle;

12. *Decides* that the Forum should continue to support the full and effective participation of developing countries;

13. *Also decides* that the Forum, with the support of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, will further develop and harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, framed by the thematic elements for sustainable forest management, through processes that are perceived as worthwhile and relevant to the needs of countries, and invites countries to provide input for these processes;

14. *Further decides* that the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests should be reviewed again in 2015;

15. *Decides* to strengthen the secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfil its function;

16. [Trust funds]

17. *Decides* that the Forum will continue to provide clear guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

18. *Urges* Member States to send consistent messages to governing bodies of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests so that the Partnership:

(a) Has a mandate to develop joint action plans;

(b) Coordinates the work of its members in line with political recommendations of the Forum in order to more effectively promote sustainable forest management;

(c) Prepares a consistent work programme, including deliverables and a budget that supports the implementation of the Forum's multi-year programme of work;

19. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to engage in a more proactive process by:

(a) Increasing the transparency of its operations by involving major groups in planning and implementation of its activities, including through partnerships;

(b) Strengthening its contribution to activities at the regional level;

(c) Providing analysis of global trends, gaps and policy implications drawn from the reports given by countries to the member organizations of the Partnership;

20. *Invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to strengthen the Tehran process in developing and implementing strategies on conservation and rehabilitation of forests in low forest cover countries;

21. [Collaborative Partnership on Forests funding/seed fund]

Legal framework

22. *Recognizes* that the option of the legally binding instrument on all types of forests could be considered among other possibilities in the future review of the international arrangement on forests in 2015;

Voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding

23. *Decides* that, by 2007, the Forum will develop a voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest according to the terms of reference set out in the appendix to the present resolution;

Declaration and message

24. *Also decides* to submit the Ministerial Declaration of the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly on the crucial contributions that forests can make to the realization of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/44 of 22 July 2004;

25. *Further decides* that without prejudice to the status of and the principles established by Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the present resolution will supplement it.

[Appendix

Terms of reference for developing a voluntary code/guidelines/ international understanding on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest

Purpose: The purpose is to articulate international forest-related agreements on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of sustainable forest management and to help achieve the goals decided upon at the fifth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

Process: The process of developing the voluntary code/guidelines/international understanding will be integrated into the future multi-year programme of work of the Forum.

Possible topics to be included: title and purpose; reaffirmation of existing agreements; relationships with other international instruments; cooperation; implementation; monitoring and reporting; provision for review.]